

REMARKS

Claims 1-49 are currently pending in the application. Claims 3-5 and 8-10 were withdrawn from consideration following a restriction requirement. Claims 1, 28, 47 and 48 are currently amended. Claims 2, 6-7 and 11-27 and 29-46 and 49 are original. Claims 26 and 45 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 1-2, 11-15, 21-25, 28-30, 34, 40-43 and 47-49 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,411,117 to Scherbatskoy (referred to herein after as "Scherbatskoy"). Claims 6-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Scherbatskoy in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,382,201 to Trzaskos (referred to herein after as "Trzaskos"). Claims 16-20 and 35-39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Scherbatskoy in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,776,010 to Rike (referred to herein after as "Rike"). Claims 31-33 and 44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Scherbatskoy in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,764,908 to Greer (referred to herein after as "Greer").

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation that the Examiner indicated that claims 26, 27, 45 and 46 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant amends independent claims 1, 28, 47 and 48 to include the limitations of now canceled claims 26 and 45. Thus, Applicant requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejections of amended independent claims 1, 28, 47 and 48. Claims 2, 11-15 and 21-25 depend on amended independent claims 1 and add further limitation thereto, claims 29-30, 34 and 40-43 depend on amended independent claim 28 and add further limitation thereto, and claim 49 depends on amended independent claim 48 and add further limitation thereto. Therefore, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejections of these claims, too. Claims 6-7 and 16-20 depend on amended independent claims 1 and add further limitation thereto, and claims 31-33, 35-39 and 44 depend on amended independent claims 28 and add further limitation thereto. Therefore, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejections of these claims. Claims 27 and 46 depend on amended independent claims 1 and 28 respectively and

add further limitations thereto. Therefore, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of objections against these claims.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response other than as reflected on the enclosed Fee Transmittal. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-1945, under Order No. BBNT-P01-138 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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